

PATENT  
J711-002 CON

I.V. CATHETER ASSEMBLY WITH BLOOD EXPOSURE PREVENTION

[0001] CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[0002] This is a continuation of application no.  
10/300,394, filed November 20, 2002, now U.S. Patent  
No. 6,814,725.

[0003] FIELD AND BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0004] The present invention relates in general, to  
intravascular (I.V.) catheter assemblies, and in  
particular, to a new and useful I.V. catheter assembly  
that prevents blood from accidentally leaking from the  
catheter.

[0005] A typical I.V. catheter assembly requires the  
user to remove and then dispose of a contaminated  
needle after the needle tip and the catheter are  
properly located in a blood vessel of a patient. Once  
the needle is withdrawn from the catheter, the user  
immediately discards the needle. The user then  
urgently attempts to attach a male adapter to the  
catheter. The adapter can be of various types but  
almost always has a self-closing plug or member into  
or through which the needle of a supply tube or a  
needleless system can be passed for drawing blood from

dsr.  
6/12/06